

Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to amend the bill. (The Schmit amendment is found on pages 1596-1600 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I am going to talk about this amendment for just a little while, while I'm waiting for another amendment to come up, and I thought you would be probably intensely interested in this amendment since we discussed yesterday the desirability or the lack of allowing the commodity boards to invest funds in tax research. I am sure that in the last 24 hours we have all become much more familiar with the tax problem that faces Nebraskans and as it faces this particular Legislature. And I felt a little bit disturbed, I guess, that perhaps I was a little short with some of my colleagues that I would even consider such a drastic measure as to suggest that we might use tax funds subtracted from the income of farmers without their consent to do research on something which might possibly lead to lobbying. Well, of course, it would not be the first time on this floor that something occurred indirectly that was not condoned directly. And so I felt that it might be appropriate to offer for the consideration of this body a more direct amendment and in order that you might be...have your guilt feelings assuaged a bit, in the event you have some faint doubt as to whether or not you should vote for this amendment, I am handing out, for your perusal, a list of tax supported subdivisions of government which have employed a lobbyist to carry their message to this Legislature. It is only by accident that our former colleague and good friend, Senator Rupp, heads the list, but there are many others on there whose names you will recognize and the entities which they represent will be familiar to you. So in order to be up front, as I always try to be, and to bring to you an amendment which anyone, even the most inexperienced legislator can understand, I have offered for the body's consideration the amendment that says, we will strike the language that says, at the present time prohibits the commodity boards from influencing state legislation. It seems to me, we always talk a lot on this floor about a level playing field and we seem to have accepted that as being a very laudable goal and